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(54) Title: METHODS OF VULCANIZING ELASTOMERS USING TALL OIL HEADS

(57) Abstract: Tall oil heads may be used in lieu of, or in combination with, conventional fatty acids in the compounding and curing of vulcanizable rubber. Tall oil heads inherently contain a significant amount of neutral materials, and their incorporation into a pre-vulcanized rubber composition allows the compounder to incorporate less aromatic oil into the composition. The composition may be made by a method comprising compounding a mixture comprising a vulcanizable elastomer, a sulfur source, and Tall Oil Heads (TOH), the TOH comprising 40-75 wt% fatty acids and greater than 10 wt% neutral materials, and heating the compounded mixture to a temperature sufficient to cause substantial crosslinking of the elastomer.



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